

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed November 17, 2005. The claims have been amended to overcome the Examiner's formal objections thereto, and to further define the invention over the art. No new matter has been added to the subject application as a result of the changes made thereto.

Turning to the rejections on the art, claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cummings (U.S. Patent No. 6,058,034). Applicants respectfully submit this rejection is in error, and should be withdrawn.

The Examiner points to Cummings as disclosing "an adapter for providing DC power via at least one power line to a portable device comprising circuitry to generate an identification signal proportional to a maximum adapter current available from said adapter (columns 1, 2, column 3, lines 14-17)." (Official Action, page 2)

Applicants agree with the Examiner's characterization of Cummings, however, and as will be described in further detail below, Applicants believe the amendments to claims 1, 6 and 13 clearly define over Cummings.

Cummings appears to disclose an adapter 110 that includes a current converting circuit 120 and a storage device 130. Storage device 130 contains information about the current converter such as identity information (e.g., type of converter, manufacturer of converter), voltage capability information, current capability information, and current source information. (Column 5, lines 10-14). A computer system 150 operates according to information received from the storage device 130.

In operation, power management circuitry 160 receives converter information (e.g., in response to a request by the power management circuitry, by reading the information directly, or by an unprompted transmission from converter 110) and determines if the converter can and/or should be used with the computer system 150. To accomplish this, power management circuitry 160 can compare converter identify information with a look-up table, evaluate converter current and voltage characteristics to determine if the converter is suitable for the converter system, or use some other information from the current converter or even from current source 100. Based on the determination, power management circuitry 160 can allow normal use, can prevent use of the converter and notify the user (e.g., a warning light on the computer system), or can allow restricted use of the current source. [Column 5, lines 52-67]

This, it appears to Applicants that the Cummings reference teaches a static source of information stored in the storage device 130 that translates information about the adapter 110 to the computer system 150. However, nowhere does Cummings disclose or suggest that this information can be changed based on changes in the output of the adapter. Moreover, it appears that Cummings does not disclose or suggest that the computer system 150 is capable of a dynamic use of the information provided by the information stored on the storage device 130.

In contrast, Applicants' invention of independent claim 1 requires circuitry to generate an identification signal that requires "circuitry to generate an identification signal proportional to a maximum adapter current available from said adapter, said circuitry is capable of changing said identification signal in response to changes in available adapter current." (Claim 1, as amended). Applicants' invention of independent claim 6 has been similarly amended.

In another aspect, Applicant's invention of independent claim 13, as amended, requires "circuitry to receive an identification signal proportional to a maximum adapter current supplied to said portable electronic device, said circuitry is further configured to generate a voltage signal proportional to said identification signal, said circuitry is further configured to change said

voltage signal in response to changes in available current provided by said AC/DC or DC/DC adapter.” (Claims 13, as amended)

Thus, regarding Applicants’ invention of independent claims 1 and 6, nowhere does the Cummings reference disclose or suggest the concept of changing the identification signal in response to changes in available adapter current. As set forth above, it appears that the static data store 130 provided by Cummings is not dynamically updated with information concerning the operation and available current of the adapter 110. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner’s rejection of Applicants’ invention of claims 1 and 6 (and all dependent claims thereon) as being anticipated by the Cummings reference is in error, and should be withdrawn.

With regard to Applicants’ invention of independent claim 13, nowhere does the Cummings reference disclose a portable electronic device that generates a voltage signal that changes in response to changes in the identification signal generated by the AC/DC or DC/DC adapter 110. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Cummings could not anticipate Applicants’ invention of independent claim 13, or any dependent claims thereon.

Claims 3-5, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Cummings in view of Miller (U.S. Patent 5,818,197). Applicants respectfully submit this rejection is also in error.

Claims 3-5, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18 each depend directly or indirectly from Applicants’ invention of independent claims 1, 6 or 13, as the case may be, and thus, must be read as incorporating the limitations of the independent claim. (35 USC § 112, 4th paragraph).

It is not seen how Miller supplies the missing teachings of Cummings to achieve or render obvious Applicants’ invention of the independent claims, as set forth above.

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Suffice to note, nowhere does Miller disclose or suggest an adapter that includes circuitry that is capable of changing an identification signal in response to changes in available adapter current.

Miller appears to disclose the use of a resistor to identify the type of battery and/or adapter present.

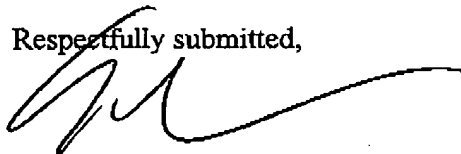
Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 3-5, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18 as being obvious under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Cummings in view of Miller is in error, and should be withdrawn.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that the present application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Thus, early allowance is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner desires personal contact for further disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Attorney at 603.668.6560.

In the event there are any fees due, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

Respectfully submitted,



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